



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

*McGregor W. Scott
United States Attorney*

*501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900*

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*Contact: Patty Pontello, 916-554-2706
www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home*

**SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY POLITICAL FIGURE MONTE McFALL
CONVICTED IN CORRUPTION CASE**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that MONTE D. McFALL, 58, of Lathrop, was convicted by a jury of numerous federal corruption charges following a five week trial in U.S. District Court before Judge Morrison C. England, Jr. Following the verdict, Judge England ordered McFALL remanded into custody pending sentencing.

According to Assistant United States Attorneys Benjamin B. Wagner and Patrick K. Hanly, who are prosecuting the case, McFALL was convicted of nine counts of attempted extortion, six counts of honest services mail fraud and two counts of witness tampering. He was acquitted of three counts of honest services mail fraud. The attempted extortion counts relate to several schemes involving threats to manipulate the political process of San Joaquin County for his own financial benefit. Among the counts of conviction were conspiracies in which McFALL was alleged to have conspired with defendants SAWYER, DUNN and BEDFORD.

The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, with the assistance of investigators from the San Joaquin County District Attorney's Office.

Four other defendants in the case have already pleaded guilty. On January 11, 2005, N. ALLEN SAWYER, 36, of Stockton, the former Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning, pleaded guilty to one count of honest services mail fraud. On January 13, 2005, T. BAXTER DUNN, 57, the elected Sheriff of San Joaquin County, also pleaded guilty to one count of honest services mail fraud and resigned from office. On the same date, LYNN G. BEDFORD, 67, former County Supervisor for San Joaquin County pleaded guilty to one count of making a material false statement to the FBI. On January 18, 2005, J. TYLER REVES, 35, formerly of Stockton, the former legislative aide to LYNN G. BEDFORD, pleaded guilty to making a material false statement to the FBI.

Sentencing for defendant SAWYER is currently scheduled for April 26, 2005. Sentencing for defendants DUNN, BEDFORD and REVES is currently scheduled for May 3, 2005, and sentencing for defendant McFALL is scheduled for May 24, 2005.

"The jury's conviction of Monte McFall brings to an end a saga of greed and corruption. The people of San Joaquin county are the better for it. I extend my highest praise for the San

Joaquin District Attorney Investigator's Bureau, the FBI, and the prosecutors from my office for their tireless work in routing out corruption in San Joaquin County. Because of their efforts, a sitting Sheriff, a former Board of Supervisor and his staff member, and a former state criminal justice official now stand convicted for misdeeds they committed while they enjoyed the public trust," said United States Attorney Scott.

FBI Special Agent in Charge Keith Slotter said "Today's verdict marks a significant, and hopefully final, step toward re-instituting political integrity within various segments of San Joaquin County government. This investigation and prosecution serve notice that corruption among elected officials will not be tolerated and serves as a large measure of justice and hope for the entire San Joaquin community."

San Joaquin County District Attorney John D. Phillips said: "We commend the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office for their hard work in pursuing the investigation and the prosecution in this matter. Today's verdict is a vindication of those efforts."

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